

Powwow: Time to keep traditions alive

By SONNI SCHWINN

Wasatch County Correspondent

HEBER CITY — A powwow is a spiritual and cultural gathering, where old friendships are renewed and new friendships are formed, according to the arena director.

During the Heber Valley Powwow June 2-5, Lacee Harris was the man in charge of everything that goes on in the arena area, including security and protocol.

Harris was born on the Uintah Ouray Reservation, about 10 miles east of Heber City, and reared by his grandparents in the tradition of an Indian family. Aunts and uncles were his teachers and disciplinarians and the role of his grandparents was to keep the culture and traditions alive.

"The parents' primary job was just to love those kids," he said.

Eagle feathers are the most sacred Indian symbols. Harris said that is because eagles soar so high. Indian people respect them and believe they help lift prayers to the Creator. The feathers are bestowed as honors, usually on returning warriors, which are, today, native U.S. veterans.

The feathers are used in prayers, to comfort and heal, similar to consecrated oil in some religions. An Indian will lose his feather if he dishonors it, the greatest insult he can suffer.

Harris said originally the war dances were war or honor stories which entertained. "If you watch the dancer's movements ... you can see him out scouting, sighting the enemy, and sneaking up on the enemy

... or you can see him fighting."

Most of the colors and symbols on the regalia, or costume of an Indian are personal and sacred. They may paint their faces to portray sorrow, joy or special medicines, which Harris said could be compared to spiritual gifts in Christian religions.

He said everyone chooses his own symbols typifying his belief in having a personal relationship with the Creator.

Many times symbols will relate to something received in a dream, that a person needs or for protection, he said. That person may not want to share the meanings of the symbols because the dream may be too personal or sacred.

However, some symbols have general, accepted meanings, like eagle feathers. Leathers are used in remembrance of the buffalo, elk and deer — "Those four-leggeds who were given to us as food items, clothes, materials for glue and for sewing."

Harris wears earrings with tiny silver peace pipes, sacred objects because the smoke from a peace pipe helps lift prayers to the Creator, similar to the way incense is burned in many religions. He also wears a scalp lock, a tiny braid that starts at the top of his head, which he described as a "challenge to the enemy" that might want his scalp. He wears tiny bear paws on his black hat, in honor of the bear which, according to his Ute people have given them knowledge and healing medicine.

He also wears to eagle feathers, "To help remind me of who and what I am, what I need to do and how I need to act."

Attendants fly lighter

less than 1 complaint for every 100,000 passengers flown. Delta Air Lines had the fewest complaints among the large carriers at 1.32 per 100,000 passengers.

The best arrival rate was reported at Salt Lake City, where 90.6 percent of the flights arrived on time during April, followed by 86.7 percent at Memphis and Phoenix. San Francisco had the worst arrival record at 68.4 percent.

The department tabulates on-time information for the 27 largest airports based on passenger traffic volume.

has a new baby

brown-and-white terrier acquired last weekend, stayed in the car Monday as the former Sarah Ferguson inaugurated a restored water wheel at Painshill Park in Surrey, outside London.

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Air Zimbabwe's female flight attendants have met a six-month deadline to lose weight, a newspaper reported today.

The Herald said flight attendants who were told in December to trim down or face permanent grounding have met the ultimatum. It did not say how many employees were involved.

In issuing the order in December, the airline said its cabin crews outweighed those of most other airlines.

The Herald, which is published by government-owned Mass Media Trust, today quoted an unidentified airline spokesman as saying the flight attendants have lost weight. Airline officials today declined to elaborate.

Regulations set the minimum height for female flight attendants at 5 feet 4 inches.

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